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APPEAL BRIEF

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FILING DATE: November 13, 2001

INVENTOR: Santosuoso

EXAMINER: Cam-Linh T. Nguyen

GROUP ART UNIT: 2171

CONFIRMATION NO.: 6341

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PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. BOC920018222US1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

**In re Application of:
Santosuoso**

Serial No.: 10/007,713

Confirmation No.: 6341

Filed: November 13, 2001

For: Method for Updating a Database From a Browser

MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF-PATENTS
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Group Art Unit: 2171

Examiner: Nguyen, Cam Linh

CERTIFICATE OF FAX
37 CFR 1.8

Dear Sir:

APPEAL BRIEF

Applicants submit this Appeal Brief to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on appeal from the decision of the Examiner of Group Art Unit 2161 dated December 15, 2004, finally rejecting claims 1-36. The final rejection of claims 1-36 is appealed. This Appeal Brief is believed to be timely since faxed by the due date of May 10, as set by a Notice of Appeal filed on March 10. Authorization to charge the fee of \$500.00 for filing this brief is provided on a separate fee transmittal. Please charge any additional fees that may be required to make this Appeal Brief timely and acceptable to Deposit Account No. 20-0782/GGM.

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Real Party in Interest

The present application has been assigned to International Business Machines Corporation, Armonk, New York.

Related Appeals and Interferences

Applicant notes that the rejection of related claims was appealed in United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/007,713, filed on November 13, 2001.

Applicant asserts that no other appeals or interferences are known to the Applicant, the Applicant's legal representative, or assignee which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-36 are pending in the application. Claims 36 were originally presented in the application. Claims 1-36 stand finally rejected as discussed below. The final rejections of claims 1-36 are appealed. The pending claims are shown in the attached Claims Appendix.

Status of Amendments

All claim amendments have been entered by the Examiner. No amendments to the claims were proposed after the final rejection. All claim amendments presented after final rejection have been entered by the Examiner and included in the Claims Appendix or are not involved in this appeal.

Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

Claimed embodiments of the invention provide methods, computer systems, and program products to keep information in a database accurate and up to date based on information from a user's browsing session (p.4, paragraph 7).

In the embodiments of independent claim 1, a method for updating a database containing information related to one or more web pages, comprising monitoring operations of a web browser program to detect an event indicating a change involving a web page for which information is stored in the database and, in response to detecting such an event, sending a notification to the database containing the information causing the information to be updated in accordance with the change (p.4, paragraph 8) is provided.

In the embodiments of independent claim 11, a signal bearing medium, comprising a program which, when executed by a processor, performs an operation for updating a database on a server containing information about a set of web pages comprising receiving a change request from a web browser, the change request indicating the web browser has detected a change related to a web page for which information is stored in the database, and updating the database based on information contained in the change request to reflect the detected change (p.4, paragraph 11) is provided.

In the embodiments of independent claim 21, a computer system comprising a database containing information about a set of web pages, a memory containing at least a database management system comprising a database update program, and a processor which, when executing the database update program, is configured to update at least one table in the database containing information about a web page in response to receiving a change request from a web browser, the change request containing information indicating the web browser detected a change event related to the web page (p.4, paragraph 9) is provided.

In the embodiments of independent claim 29, a method for updating a database containing references to network addresses, comprising automatically accessing each network address on a list of network addresses referenced in the database, determining one or more changes in location or content related to a web page associated with each network address accessed, and automatically updating the database according to the one or more changes (p.4, paragraph 10) is provided.

In the embodiments of independent claim 33, a signal bearing medium, comprising a program which, when executed by a processor, performs an operation for updating a database containing references to network addresses comprising automatically accessing each network address on a list of network addresses referenced in the database, determining one or more changes in location or content related to a web page associated with each network address accessed, and automatically updating the database according to the one or more changes (p.13, paragraph 41) is provided.

Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

1. Claims 1-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Smith et al.*, U.S. 6,578,078 (hereinafter "Smith").

ARGUMENTS

A. Anticipation of Claims 1-36 by *Smith*

Claims 1-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Smith*. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as follows.

The Present Claims

Independent claims 1, 11, and 21, are directed towards methods and apparatus for updating information in a database based on change requests received from a web browser. The change requests are sent in response to changes detected by the web browser. Independent claims 29 and 33 are directed towards methods and computer readable mediums for automatically updating a database containing references to network addresses by automatically accessing network addresses referenced in the database (tunneling) and determining changes in location or content related to web pages associated with each network address.

Brief Overview of the Prior Art and Statement of Appellants' Argument

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference."

Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The elements must be arranged as required by the claim, ... *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

In this case, *Smith* does not disclose "each and every element as set forth" in the rejected claims. *Smith* is directed to a website authoring tool and does not teach detecting changes to web page from a web browser, as recited in the claims. *Smith* teaches a referential preservation engine (RPE) that monitors change requests from a web site author during web site development, rather than change requests from a web browser program. Appellants respectfully submit that the Examiner errs in this regard.

Detailed Analysis of the Prior Art and Examiner's Rejection

While the Examiner rejects claim 11 under 102(e) as being anticipated by *Smith*, *Smith* does not disclose receiving a change request from a web browser indicating the web browser has detected a change related to a web page for which information is stored in a database, as recited. The Examiner argues that *Smith* discloses this element, referring to Fig. 1, col. 8, line 65 through col. 9, line 9, and col. 13, lines 1-10. However, rather than teaching receiving change requests from a web browser, the cited passages are in fact directed to receiving change requests from a web site author during web site development (e.g., when the web site author moves or deletes a web page). In other words, the Examiner has confused the claimed operations of a web browser with the operations of a website authoring tool taught by *Smith*.

Further, the Examiner argues that a change request corresponds to a command from a web site author to move or delete a page and that, because the author can use a computer connected to a network, the command is issued from a browser. There is no such support in the teachings of *Smith*. In contrast, *Smith* teaches that the (referential preservation engine-RPE) program modules are preferably part of one or more application programs executed on a personal computer and used in providing a web page authoring environment (see col. 10, lines 16-19).

Referring next to claim 1, *Smith* does not disclose monitoring operations of a web browser program to detect an event indicating a change involving a web page for which information is stored in the database, as recited. The Examiner argues that *Smith* discloses this element, again referring to Fig. 1, col. 8, line 65 through col. 9, line 9, and col. 13, lines 1-10. As stated above, however, the cited passages are in fact directed to receiving change requests from a web site author during web site development, and do not teach monitoring operations of a web browser program to detect an event indicating a change involving a web page.

The Examiner repeats the argument that a change request corresponds to a command from a web site author to move or delete a page and that, because the author can use a computer connected to a network, the command is issued from a browser.

However, claim 1 does not recite a change request issued from a browser so this argument is irrelevant to claim 1.

Referring next to claim 21, *Smith* does not disclose a processor configured to, when executing a database update program, update at least one table in the database containing information about a web page in response to receiving a change request from a web browser, the change request containing information indicating the web browser detected a change event related to the web page, as recited. The Examiner argues that the referential preservation engine (RPE) taught in *Smith* corresponds to the database update program. However, the RPE monitors change requests from a web site author during web site development, rather than change requests from a web browser program.

Referring next to claim 29, *Smith* does not disclose automatically accessing each network address on a list of network addresses referenced in the database, determining one or more changes in location or content related to a web page associated with each network address accessed, and automatically updating the database according to the one or more changes, as recited. In any case, the Examiner argues that the *Smith* teaches automatically accessing each network address on a list of addresses referenced in a database, referring to Fig. 4 and col. 13, lines 30-50. However, the cited sections are directed to redirecting and do not teach the claimed elements.

While the Examiner states that claim 29 "further includes" an additional element, relative to claims 11 and 1, Applicant would like to clarify that the elements in claim 29 are not included in claims 11 or 1. Further, while claim 33 is not separately addressed, Applicant submits that the elements claimed therein are similar to those of claim 29 and are not taught in *Smith*.

For the reasons state above, Applicant submits *Smith* fails to disclose "each and every element as set forth" in claims 1, 11, 21, 29, and 33. Accordingly, Applicant submits that these claims and their dependents are patentable over *Smith* and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

The examiner erred in rejecting claims 1-36 as being anticipated by *Smith* because *Smith* does not disclose receiving a change request from a web browser indicating the web browser has detected a change related to a web page for which information is stored in a database, as recited in the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. (Previously Presented) A method for updating a database containing information related to one or more web pages, comprising:
 - monitoring operations of a web browser program to detect an event indicating a change involving a web page for which information is stored in the database; and
 - in response to detecting such an event, sending a notification to the database containing the information causing the information to be updated in accordance with the change.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:verifying whether a data table in the database allows automatic updates before sending the notification.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:attaching the database to the web browser through a login process.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the web browser resides on a client system and the database resides on a server system.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the event comprises receiving, from a web server, a page redirect request to change a uniform resource locator (URL) of a web page from a first network address to a second network address.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the notification sent to the database requests replacement of the first network address with the second network address in one or more data tables in the database.
7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the first and second network addresses are utilized as links on a web page.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the event comprises a change in a web page.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the notification sent to the database contains sufficient information to update the database to reflect the change in the web page.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the notification contains sufficient information to update the database to reflect multiple changes in the web page.
11. (Previously Presented) A signal bearing medium, comprising a program which, when executed by a processor, performs an operation for updating a database on a server containing information about a set of web pages, the operation comprising:
 - receiving a change request from a web browser, the change request indicating the web browser has detected a change related to a web page for which information is stored in the database; and
 - updating the database based on information contained in the change request to reflect the detected change.
12. (Original) The signal bearing medium of claim 11, wherein the operation further comprises verifying whether a data table in the database allows automatic updates before updating the data table.
13. (Previously Presented) The signal bearing medium of claim 11, wherein the operation further comprises attaching the database to the web browser.
14. (Previously Presented) The signal bearing medium of claim 13, wherein the web browser is on a client system and the database is connected to a server system.

15. (Previously Presented) The signal bearing medium of claim 11, wherein the information contained in the change request indicates the web browser detected a redirect notification from a server redirecting the web page from a first network address to a second network address.
16. (Original) The signal bearing medium of claim 15, wherein the updating comprises replacing the first network address with the second network address in one or more data tables in the database.
17. (Original) The signal bearing medium of claim 15, wherein the first and second network addresses are utilized as links on a web page.
18. (Previously Presented) The signal bearing medium of claim 11, wherein the information contained in the change request indicates the web browser detected a change in the web page.
19. (Previously Presented) The signal bearing medium of claim 18, wherein the updating comprises executing a trigger program for determining additional programs to be run to update the database, based on the information contained in the change request.
20. (Previously Presented) The signal bearing medium of claim 11, wherein the notification contains sufficient information to update the database to reflect multiple changes in the web page.
21. (Previously Presented) A computer system, comprising:
 - a database containing information about a set of web pages;
 - a memory containing at least a database management system comprising a database update program; and
 - a processor which, when executing the database update program, is configured to update at least one table in the database containing information about a web page in

response to receiving a change request from a web browser, the change request containing information indicating the web browser detected a change event related to the web page.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 21, further comprising a network connection configured to allow communication with the web browser after a secure attachment procedure.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 21, wherein the information indicating the web browser detected a change event related to the web page comprises an indication the web browser detected a change to the content or layout of the web page.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 23, wherein the processor is configured to execute a trigger program for determining additional programs to be run to update the database, based on the information contained in the change request.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 21, wherein the processor is further configured to verify whether the data table in the database allows automatic updates before updating the data table.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 21, wherein information contained in the change request indicates receipt by the web browser of a page redirect request from a first network address to a second network address, and wherein the processor is configured to replace the first network address with the second network address in one or more data tables in the database.

27. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 21, wherein the processor is configured to execute a trigger program for determining additional programs to be run to update the database to reflect multiple changes indicated in the information contained in the change request.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 21, wherein the processor is configured to execute multiple sub-trigger programs to update the database to reflect the multiple changes indicated in the information contained in the change request.
29. (Previously Presented) A method for updating a database containing references to network addresses, comprising:
 - automatically accessing each network address on a list of network addresses referenced in the database;
 - determining one or more changes in location or content related to a web page associated with each network address accessed; and
 - automatically updating the database according to the one or more changes.
30. (Original) The method of claim 29, further comprising:
 - generating the list of network addresses from the database.
31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein determining one or more changes in location or content related to a web page associated with each network address accessed comprises detecting a page redirect from a first network address to a second network address, and wherein the database is updated to replace the first network address with the second network address in one or more data tables in the database.
32. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the updating comprises executing one or more trigger programs according to the one or more changes related to the network address.
33. (Previously Presented) A signal bearing medium, comprising a program which, when executed by a processor, performs an operation for updating a database containing references to network addresses, the operation comprising:

automatically accessing each network address on a list of network addresses referenced in the database;

determining one or more changes in location or content related to a web page associated with each network address accessed; and

automatically updating the database according to the one or more changes.

34. (Original) The signal bearing medium of claim 33, further comprising:
generating the list of network addresses from the database.

35. (Previously Presented) The signal bearing medium of claim 33, wherein determining one or more changes in location or content related to a web page associated with each network address accessed comprises detecting a page redirect from a first network address to a second network address, and wherein the database is updated to replace the first network address with the second network address in one or more data tables in the database.

36. (Previously Presented) The signal bearing medium of claim 33, wherein the updating comprises executing one or more trigger programs according to the one or more changes related to the web page associated with the network address.

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

No copies of decisions rendered by a court or the Board in the related appeal or interference listed on page 4 of this Brief are included as there have been no decisions by the court or the Board in the related appeal or interference listed on page 4 of this Brief.